

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, GY

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

FROM HOOKS TO BELCHER SMITHSONIAN.

1. WIGGINS SHOULD CHECK WITH CAO IN TRINIDAD ON PROGRESS OF PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY USIS TO MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND PROTOCOL PROCEDURES. CONTACTS FOR WIGGINS: JOYCE WONG-SANG, P.M. OFFICE REGARDING COMPOSITION AND NUMBER OF TROUPE; ANDREW CARR, ACTING DIRECTOR NATIONAL CULTURAL COUNCIL, REPLACED ELDER; SCOFIELD PILGRIM, SHANGO TRADITIONS TELE 24502; M.P.ALLADIN DIVISION OF CULTURE.

REACHED GEORGETOWN 3:45 A.M. NOVEMBER 5. MET WITH PAO KIBBLE, ASST PAO HOOD,CULTURAL ASSISTANT BASIL HINDS. DISCUSSED FAF AND PACKET FOR FIELD-RIDLEY. POST UNABLE TO GET APPOINTMENT WITH FIELD-RIDLEY UNTIL DAY OF HOOKS ARRIVAL.

3. PAO KIBBLE AND CULTURAL ASSISTANT HINDS ACCOMPANIED HOOKS AT MEETING WITH SHIRLEY FIELD-RIDLEY, MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE; ADMIN ASSIST,BUDGET SECTION OF MINISTRY: LYNETTE DOLPHIN, CHAIRMWOMAN OF NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARTS COUNCIL; A.J. SEYMOUR, CULTURAL ADVISOR, NATIONAL HISTORY AND ARTS COUNCIL. MINISTER HAD PROBLEMS WITH PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF TROUPE BOTH ETHNICALLY AND FOLKORIGALLY. MINSTER ASKED IF COMPOSITION OF TROUPE FLEXIBLE; REQUESTED TROUPE REPRESENT AMERINDIANS, EAST INDIANS AND AFRICAN DESCENDANTS. HOOKS REITERATED AD CONCEPT. STRESSED THE NEED OF GUYANESE PERFORMERS OF AFRICAN DESCENT. HOOKS ADVISED MINISTER TROUPE COULD HAVE SMALL EAST INDIAN COMPONENT;

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THAT ADAG WOULD BE CONSULTED ON AMERINDIAN INCLUSION, BUT DOUBTFUL.

4. MINISTER ASKED HOOKS IF THERE WAS FLEXIBILITY IN ADING ROUNDTRIP TRAVEL, HOOKS REPLIED NONE PRESENTLY. MINISTER'S QUESTION VERY POLITICAL, WHY AFRICAN DIASPORO PARTICIPATING IN BI-CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, WHY SHOULD GUYANA PARTICIPATE? WHY U.S. IMPOSING DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICE ON GUYANA? ETC. HOOKS HELD UP WELL.

5. EVEN THOUGH MINISTER HAS RESERVATIONS AND MANY QUESTIONS, NOT HOSTILE. THERE IS DEFINITE INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING. COMPOSITION OF TROUPE SUSPECTED TO BE MAIN PROBLEM.

6. MINISTER DID NOT LIKE BEING TOLD THAT S.I WOULD MAKE FINAL DECISION ON GUYANA'S PARTICIPATION BASED ON TROUPE COMPOSITION. MINISTER WOULD NOT DESIGNATE FOLKLORIST, REQUESTED EARLY MEET WITH HER FIRST TO DISCUSS COMPOSITION OF TROUPE. INDICATED EARLY WOULD COME APPROXIMATELY END OF DECEMBER OR EARLY JANUARY. MINISTER WANTS TO KNOW IF THERE IS FLEXIBILITY IN GUYANA'S SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION. HOOKS INFORMED MINISTER NOT MUCH. IF GUYANA WANT TO APPEAR SOME OTHER TIME WILL GIVE CONSIDERATION IF STIPULATED VERY SOON.

7. MINISTER INVITED HOOKS BACK NEXT DAY TO VIEW SLIDES, MEET CANCELLED BECAUSE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMAN'S YEAR CONFERENCE.

8. MET WITH AMBASSADOR KREBS, ALREADY KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SUPPORTIVE OF FAF. REVIEWED AFRICAN CONCEPT AND PHOTO ALBUM. AMBASSADOR IMPRESSED AT S.I. HOMEWORK DONE.

9. GELINAS SHOULD BE USED AS EMBASSY IS, TO CHANNEL INFORMATION THROUGH TO MINISTER IN GEORGETOWN.

10. USIS VERY HELPFUL PAO WILL HANDLE S.I.S CORRESPONDENCE AND NEGOTIATIONS.
KREBS

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